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America-Watching: Russian Style

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MOSCOW.

The most sought-after publication in Russia today is the first issue of *USA: Economics, Politics, Ideology*.

It is the first periodical devoted to the analysis of another country, and its appearance marks the rapidly growing influence in the Soviet Union of the "Americanisti," a group of Soviet specialists in U.S. affairs.

The new monthly journal, in its crisp blue and white cover and illustrated with photographs, is published by the USA Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

This USA Institute, founded in 1968, is a "think tank" consisting of approximately 100 researchers who are housed in an 18th-century nobleman's mansion on a narrow side street, tucked behind Kalinin Prospect, Moscow's most modern thoroughfare.

The first issue of *USA: Economics, Politics, Ideology* contains a mixture of articles by "Americanisti" in addition to reprints from the American press.

There is a preview of U.S. foreign policy in the seventies by the institute's founder and director, Yuri Arbatov, a former Central Committee official who has traveled extensively in the U.S.; a review of the sixties entitled "The Sick Society" by Sergei Mikoyan, son of former President Anastas Mikoyan; an historical essay by Lyudmila Gvishiani, daughter of Premier Alexei Kosygin; and excerpts from Theodore H. White's *The Making of the President 1968*.

Glossary of terms

There is also a "political dictionary," explaining terms like "minority President," "smoke-filled room," and "as Maine goes, so goes the nation."

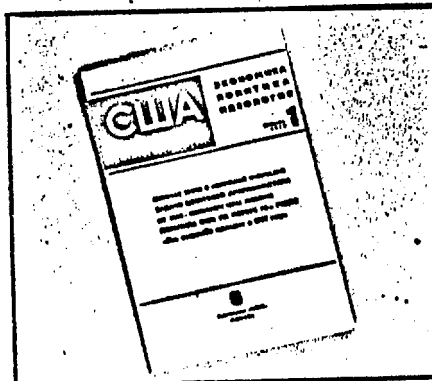
Both the U.S.A. Institute and its journal are heavily slanted toward an ortho-

dox Russian Communist critique of capitalism. The "Americanisti" characterize Richard Nixon as a reactionary representative of his "class" (businessmen) and they hold blue-collar workers to be the most progressive and exploited element of American society.

The institute, however, displays a deep interest in American economic organization and a cautious admiration of American managerial techniques.

While part of the philosophy behind the institute is "know thy enemy," some of its associates believe that there are many positive lessons to be learned from the American experience.

The institute has made a point of inviting such American dignitaries as Hubert Humphrey, Eugene McCarthy, and Gen. James Gavin for off-the-record discussions while these men were in Moscow. The atmosphere at the institute is probably more conducive to se-



New publication points up Russians' deep interest in what goes on in U.S. rious and fairly sophisticated study of the United States than that of any other Soviet institution or government agency.

Victor Linnik, one of 30 graduate students working at the institute, recently interviewed a visiting American student at length about U.S. campus

attitudes and activities.

Linnik, who graduated from Moscow State University last year, speaks excellent English and is knowledgeable about politics in general and student affairs in particular. He is writing a dissertation on student involvement in Sen. Eugene McCarthy's 1968 Presidential campaign.

Linnik and his colleagues represent a new phenomenon in the Soviet Union.

'Kremlinology'

Russia-watching has been a prestigious profession for an elite corps of American professors, journalists, and Government intelligence specialists since the end of World War II. Many universities, private foundations, official agencies, and think tanks in the U.S. run special departments devoted to "Kremlinology," the science or art or game of trying to determine what the Russians are up to and what they are likely to do next.

But until the USA Institute was founded in Moscow two years ago, the Soviet Union had no similar tradition of "Americanology" and no tradition of Government observers, journalists, and scholars pooling their expertise. It relied for the most part on espionage and analysis of the American scene by Soviet diplomats in Washington.

It is interesting to note that the job of Soviet correspondents in New York and Washington has been to reflect Soviet foreign policy, not to make independent observations of their own. The job of Russian academics, specializing in American history, economics, and even literature, has been to reflect Marxist-Leninist attitudes toward the capitalistic world, not to offer original interpretations.

More objective

The establishment of the USA Institute is the experimental beginning of an effort to provide the Russians with a more objective, integrated, informed and wide-ranging view of America. Since its staff consists largely of scholars and its audience of Kremlin policymakers, the institute also represents a new link between the Soviet university community and the government.

The institute will surely continue to reflect the official line, but it may also gradually influence that official line by providing the Soviet leadership with a realistic, trustworthy source of information about the realities and complexities of the U.S.A.